(b) if so, the details of the proposal made/finalised/under consideration and implications thereof;

(c) what is the present status of the proposal; and

(d) the details regarding projections of FDI in I.T. Industry during 2000-2001 and next five years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : (a) to (c) Government as a part of further liberalising FDI policy, has placed all activities/items under the automatic route for 100% FDI except for a negative list. There is no sectoral cap for FDI in Information Technology infrastucuture.

(d) In the rapidly changing technologies and market scenario, it would be difficult to make specific projections.

Post-Export Duty Free Replenishment Licence Scheme

4424. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Exim Policy has introduced post export duty free replenishment licence scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) which are the items for which the scheme is applicable?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Duty Free Replenishmernt Certificate (DFRC) is issued to a merchant-exporter or manufacturer-exporter for the import of inputs used in the manufacture of goods without payment of Basic Custom Duty, Surcharge and Special Additional Duty. DFRC shall be subject to a minimum value addition of 33% and this will be issued in respect of export products covered under the SION (Standard Input-Output Norms) as notified by DGFT. The validity of such licence will be for 12 months.

US Pharma Sector Slams India's Patent Regime

4425. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "US pharma sector slams India's patent regime", which appeared in the Times of India, dated 5th April, 2000;

(b) If so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) What step are proposed to be taken to remove the apprehension expressed that India has failed to adopt adequate and effective patent protection for pharmaceutical products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) India has already fufilled the first phase of its obligations under Articles 70.8 and 70.9 of the agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) by an amendment to the Patents Act, 1970, namely, the Patents (Amendment) Act, 1999, effective from 1 January, 1995.

In order to meet other obligations under the TRIPS Agreement, a Bill to further amend the Patents Act, 1970, namely, the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 20 December, 1999. The said Bill is presently under consideration of a Joint Committee of Parliament.

India has time till 31 December, 2004 to meet the obligations contained in Article 65.4 of the TRIPS Agreement regarding product patent protection in sectors not protected so far.

Industrial Production Index

†4426. DR. D. MASTHAN; SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of industries in different sectors is taken into account to determine the index of industrial production by Government;

(b) if so, what are these sectors; and

(c) the percentage of participation thereof in determining the index, separately?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The table below gives the names of the different sectors and their percentage representation in determining the index of industrial production.

Sector	Weight
Mining & quarrying	10.47
Manufacturing	79.36
Electricity	10.17

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.